(b) and (c) The total profitability of the project depends on a number of factors including capital cost, quantity of reserve and gas prices.

The capital cost estimated at the time of approval of development plan is only for assessment of commercial viability of the project. This therefore cannot be taken as criterion for calculation of profit to be shared with the Government, which will be based on actual cost incurred and as per audited figures.

Supply of gas to Pipavav Power Project

1006. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government had given commitment to State of Gujarat for supply of adequate quantity of gas for the Pipavav Power Project from Tapti gas fields;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Gujarat has expressed its concern for not being able to implement the Pipavav Power Project because of non-supply of gas despite Centre's commitment in the past; and

(c) if so, the reasons for going back on its commitment which is leading to grave injustice to the Saurashtra region for whose development this power project is very crucial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) On the request of State Govemmeut of Gujarat, an 'in principle' allocation of natural gas to the extent of 2.25 MMSCMD was made in June 2000 for the 650 MW gas based power project at Pipavav in Gujarat. This allocation was effective from 2003, subject to the condition that the Management Committee of the Tapti field takes investment decision for additional development of the field. The development plan for production of additional gas from the mid and South Tapti fields has been approved by the Management Committee of the field. The State Government has requested to supply natural gas to Pipavav Power Project. The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between the Government of India and the Panna Mukta and Tapti (PMT) Joint Ventore (JV) provides for marketing of gas by the JV at market-related prices. The developers of the Pipavav Project have been advised to tie up with the JV for supply of gas from the projected additional production of PMT JV.

Indo-Bangladesh Gas Pipeline

1007. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of negotiations with Bangladesh on the Gas Pipeline in the North-East Region;

(b) whether Government have taken note of the media reports suggesting that Bangladesh has entered into agreement with China to develop and purchase its natural gas fields;

(c) if so, whether such a Sino-Bangla agreement may impinge upon the prospects of proposed Indo-Bangla cooperation on natural gas; and

(d) if so, what were the circumstances that Bangladesh preferred China over India for such cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) India had pursued the import of natural gas from Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh held the view that considering their internal demand of gas, they do not have sufficient quantity of gas to export. So presently India does not have a proposal to import gas from Bangladesh.

(b) There have been media reports about Chinese investment for developing gas reserves in Bangladesh and for industries for value added projects. However, there is no confirmation of any agreement between China and Bangladesh.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Gap in assessment of rate of WPI

†1008. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a wide gap has been noticed in preliminary assessment and final assessment regarding the rate of whole-sale price index during the first five weeks of the year 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details of the gap, week-wise;

(c) whether Government have made any final assessment regarding the rate of Wholesale Price Index in first three months of the current year; and

(d) if so, the rate thereof and how far it exceeds the preliminary assessment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Final assessment of the inflation is made after 8 weeks.

Table: WPI based inflation (in per cent) and gap between provisional and final figures

Wk. No.	Date	Provisional	Final	Gap
1	2	3	4	5
1	07-Apr-07	6.09	6.44	0.35
2	14-Apr-07	6.09	6.34	0.25

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.